**Pro Tips for the AP Psychology Exam**

At this point, we’ve covered pretty much all of the content info for this course, so you should be good on that front. The AP test is not really that different from any other test you’ve taken in your life thus far. This is a beast you know well, don’t be intimidated by it.

**Study Tools:**

In general, it would be helpful to use a study book to prepare for the exam. These books are largely the same but the major brands tend to be Barron’s, “5 Steps to a Five”, and the Princeton Review. I’ve seen all of these and would equally recommend them. You can get these books used from Amazon or former psychology students. You can also find them in the public libraries around Durham. Your textbook is also a good resource, but it would be silly to re-read the textbook when more concise and efficient texts are available.

**Tips for When You’re the Exam**

Part I – The Multiple Choice Section

* Look out for the “gotcha” words: *except, not, etc.*
* Try to answer the question without looking at the answer choices – it can help you narrow your answer choices
* NEVER EVER EVER leave an answer blank. Always guess. There is no “guessing penalty” for missed questions.
* If you find language or terms you’re not familiar with make an educated guess as to what the term(s) mean. Psychology terms more often than not are self-explanatory so don’t overthink it.
* Be mindful of the clock. Don’t freak out if you take 1 minute to answer a question, but avoid being indecisive for many questions. Just move on and come back to it if time allows.

Part II – The FRQs

* Read the question twice. Seriously do this. Be sure you know what it’s asking before you spend time writing a wrong answer.
* Try to figure out how the points will be distributed for each question.
* Write a brief answer in your test book before answering the question on the answer sheet. M
* Don’t write in an outline format. Separate each question into a separate mini-paragraph and try to answer it in order.
* Keep things simple. If they ask for an example, don’t put down something ridiculous and convoluted. Give the simplest, boring, CORRECT example.
* Don’t write an essay. This isn’t English class. There is no need for a thesis, intro, or conclusion.
* Be direct in answering the question. Structure your answer to clearly show which part of the question you’re answering.
* WRITE LEGIBLY. The readers for these papers literally grade hundreds of these things. Don’t give them a reason to easily deduct points from a correct answer, because you couldn’t be bothered to write legibly. If I’ve made a comment on one of your papers about legibility this is especially important for you to understand.
* Use all of your time.
* Read the question twice. Make sure you’re answering the question they are asking. I making this point again because of how little people pay attention to it. Don’t be a dummy.